employment. Under this programme, entrepreneurs, including unemployed youth, can establish village industries, by availing of margin money assistance from the KVIC and loans from any public sector scheduled commercial bank, for projects with a maximum cost of Rs. 25 lakh.

Besides, the Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries has also been implementing the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY), in both rural and urban areas (with approximately fifty per cent of the units being in rural areas), for providing self-employment opportunities to educated unemployed youth. This too is a credit-linked subsidy scheme and is implemented through the District Industries Centres of the States and Union Territories, with the loans being provided by banks. Under the PMRY, projects costing upto Rs. 1 lakh for business sector and upto Rs. 2 lakh in other sectors are eligible for assistance, with the subsidy being limited to 15 per cent of the project cost, subject to a ceiling of Rs. 7,500/-. This ceiling is higher at Rs. 15,000/- per beneficiary, in the North Eastern (NE) region.

During the 10th Plan period (2002-03 to 2004-05), 1121 units have been set up in NE Region under the REGP. Similarly, 22536 units have been set up under the PMRY in the NE Region during the same period.

(c) In view of the reply at (b) above, the question does not arise.

Support TO ARIs

336. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to State:

(a) whether it is a fact that agro and rural industries in and around metro cities are nearly extinct due to lack of Government's support and of upcoming multinational companies;

(b) the details regarding production of agro and rural industries in the metro cities during the last three years;

(c) whether any special scheme is available with Government to boost the agro industry in the cities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) As per the Khadi and Village industries Commission Act, 1956, village industries, including agro and rural industries, can be set up only in villages and in towns with population up to 20,000. Thus, agro and rural industries cannot be located in metro cities, including the surrounding urban areas (towns) unless the above mentioned criterion of population is met.

(b) to (d) In view of the reply at (a) above, the questions do not arise.

Uranium mining

337. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Department of Atomic Energy proposed uranium mining and processing plant at Nalgonda in A.P.;

(b) if so, the details of the project;

(c) whether the department has submitted its proposal before the Environment Ministry for environmental clearance; and

(d) if so, the details thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Uranium Corporation of India Limited (UCIL), a Public Sector Undertaking under the Department of Atomic Energy proposes to open uranium mining and milling project in the Nalgonda District, Andhra Pradesh. The estimated cost of the project is Rs. 558.42 crore. The mines are proposed to be located in Lambapur-r-Peddagattu in P.A. Pally Mandal and Mill at Seripally village in Deverkonda Mandal.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) has granted Site Clearance for setting up of mines and application for environmental clearance has been submitted to the MoEF in March, 2005. NOC from the Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board is awaited for the processing Mill.